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|-------------------------|---|
| R. Western Gull.        | V. Harlequin Duck ( <i>Histrionicus</i>   |
| R. Kaeding (?) Petrel.  | <i>histrionicus</i> ).                    |
| R. Baird Cormorant.     | V. Northwest Crow.                        |
| R. Black Oystercatcher. | V. Black Cloud Swift ( <i>Cypseloides</i> |
| R. Rusty Song Sparrow.  | <i>niger borealis</i> ).                  |

Adding the maxima of estimates for the separate islands and groups above enumerated (and this is manifestly fair, in view of all the lesser breeding places disregarded throughout the region), and taking out for the nonce Kaeding Petrel, we have a total of some 46,000 for the adult summer population of the eleven species of sea-birds nesting in the Olympiades. Of the Petrels alone it is safe to say that there are from 55,000 to 100,000 more, making a grand total of upwards of 100,000 sea-birds now harboring in the three refuges recently appointed by President Roosevelt.

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## AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON TO HIS FAMILY.

BY RUTHVEN DEANE.

THE following letter is one of unusual interest, as it shows the great author in the height of his vigor and enthusiasm, toiling day and night in the city of Baltimore, Md., soliciting subscriptions for the octavo edition, 1840, of his 'Birds of America.' In this city, as well as in all others where he visited, he not only in a short time made many friends, but the most influential citizens rendered him great service in furthering his object.

At the date this letter was written, about 500 copies of Parts 1 to 5 had been published. The work was principally done in Philadelphia. J. and J. B. Burke, 523 No. Front St., furnished the paper, Edward G. Dorsey, 12 Library St., was retained as the printer for the text, while Edward H. Rau, 85 Dock St., did the binding of the Parts as issued. J. T. Bowen, 12 So. Broad St., furnished the paper for the plates and executed the coloring and printing thereof, his charge being \$34 per hundred. Bowen furnished all the lithographs with the exception of the fifteen plates

accompanying numbers 28, 29 and 30. For some reason these were executed by George Endicott, lithographer, 152 Fulton St., New York. Boston furnished 201 subscribers, Baltimore 168, New York City 132, while New Bedford, Philadelphia, Richmond, Washington, Charleston and New Orleans averaged 51 each.

I am under obligations to Mr. John E. Thayer, Lancaster, Mass., for the privilege of examining a set of seven old account books which were kept by Audubon and his sons during the publication of this work, and also for permission to publish this letter, which was pasted in one of the books containing miscellaneous records, lists of subscribers, etc. Mr. Thayer came into possession of these relics in November, 1906. The total number of subscribers to the octavo edition, 1840, of the *Birds*, as recorded in these account books, is 1090, and for the royal octavo edition, 1852-'54, of the *Quadrupeds*, by Audubon and Bachman, 2004.

Baltimore, Feb. 21st. 1840.

11 o'clock at night.

My dear friends

So far so good, but alas! I am now out of numbers to deliver to my subscribers here. Here! where I expected to procure a good number more. This list is composed of excellent men and all good pay. I have in my pocket upwards of one hundred names,<sup>1</sup> whom I am assured are likely to subscribe. Therefor I will not leave Baltimore for some days to come at least. I forward a copy of this list to Chevalier<sup>2</sup> by the same mail and yet you may as well inquire if he has received it. More numbers I must have as soon as possible as all my subscribers here are anxious about receiving their copies, unfortunately I had only 90 No. 2. I look upon this list as a capital list. I have sent Mr. Ridgley<sup>3</sup> of Annapolis a No. 1 and a prospectus, and expect some names tomorrow evening from that quarter.

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<sup>1</sup> On the back of this letter is written the names of one hundred and one subscribers; six of these names were crossed off.

<sup>2</sup> J. B. Chevalier, lithographer, 70 Dock St., Philadelphia, Pa., in 1839-41. While his name appears on the title page of the first five volumes of the octavo edition, 1840, of the *Birds of America*, he was not a co-publisher with Audubon, but was employed by him as an agent and promoter of the work, not only receiving a commission on sales made by him, but up to a certain time shared in the estimated profits.

<sup>3</sup> Probably David Ridgley, Librarian of the Maryland State Library in 1840. Author, *Annals of Annapolis*, 1841.

I will remit money to Phila. and will let you know how much as soon as I can. The box has arrived here safely and tomorrow or Monday I will deliver Biographies<sup>1</sup> &c. Dr. Potter<sup>2</sup> is very ill and poor and yet I hope to get his note before I leave here.

I received a note from dear Johnny<sup>3</sup> dated at Norfolk, all well and going on. I expect they are at this moment at John Bachman's. I am fatigued beyond description and had the misfortune last evening of skinning my shin bones, they bled profusely however, and I hope will soon get well, though feel rather sore at this very moment, but I will take care of them.

The amount of attention which I have received here is quite bewildering, the very streets resound with my name, and I feel quite alarmed and queer as I trudge along. Mess. Meckle,<sup>4</sup> Oldfield<sup>5</sup> and the Brune<sup>6</sup> family have all assisted me in the most kind and brotherly manner, indeed I may say that my success is mostly derived from these excellent persons.

I have written to Mr. Mifflins. I feel that Theodore Anderson<sup>7</sup> will not live long. Mr. Morris<sup>8</sup> has not yet returned from Annapolis. See that the notice in the Baltimore Patriot<sup>9</sup> which I sent you yesterday is inserted in the *Albion*, the *New York Gazette* and if possible in the *Courier* and *Enquirer*.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ornithological Biography. These were sold at \$5.50 per volume.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Nathaniel D. Potter of Baltimore. The account books show there was an N. Potter, who was a subscriber to the folio edition.

<sup>3</sup> His son John Woodhouse Audubon.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Meckle, born July 1, 1798, elected cashier of the National Union Bank of Baltimore in 1830, which position he held for forty-eight years. Subscriber to the 1840 edition.

<sup>5</sup> G. S. Oldfield. Subscriber to the 1840 edition.

<sup>6</sup> Frederick W. Brune, Sr., born 1776, died 1860. A successful German merchant and shipowner, officer and director in several banks and public institutions, enjoyed a high reputation for enterprise, liberality and honor. Subscriber to the 1840 edition.

John Christian Brune. A man of high commercial honor. Died Dec. 7, 1863. Subscriber to the 1840 edition.

<sup>7</sup> In the account books is a memorandum that on Feb. 11, 1840, there was forwarded to Col. Theodore Anderson of Baltimore, one set of the large work, half bound, fifteen volumes of the Biography, and thirty copies of the Synopsis.

<sup>8</sup> Probably George S. Morris of Baltimore, who was a subscriber to the 1840 edition.

<sup>9</sup> This paper was first issued Sept. 28, 1812. Two years later the name was changed to the Baltimore Patriot and Evening Advertiser.

I have sent one to Chevalier and another to Dr. Parkman.<sup>1</sup> I ought to have at this moment 300 copies Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, for Washington City and I really think it would be better to stop the publication of the work for *one month* to effect this. Therefor loose no time in urging Mr. Bowen (write to him) and Chevalier also on this all important subject.

If ever I was in want of assistance it is at this moment and *you* my dear Victor must be on the alert and second my endeavors to render you all Happy! I would be delighted to have a few lines from dearest Mamma and Eliza at the end of your next letter, which I hope to receive in immediate answer to this, *Here*. I have marked all your items in your last letter. Call from time to time at the Mercantile Library. I am glad you have remitted to the Rathbone's.<sup>2</sup> Do write to Mr. Hoppenstall and see the daughter of Capt. Brittan. I was invited last evening to a great ball, and should have gone had not my accident of shin bones prevented me. I am told that I would have had some 20 names there.

Recollect that our agents name is Gideon B. Smith<sup>3</sup> and a most worthy man he is, highly recommended by Robert Gilmor<sup>4</sup> and others.

[This is one of the few Audubon letters which I have seen where the signature was omitted.]

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. George Parkman, born 1791, died 1849. One of Audubon's warmest friends in Boston, assisting him in many ways. In a letter which Audubon wrote from London, Nov. 18, 1837, to Dr. Thomas M. Brewer, addressed to "My dear young friend," he says: "I send you enclosed the copy of an advertisement of my work, which I wish you to hand over to our most generous friend George Parkman Esq., M. D., and ask of him to have it inserted in one or more of the Boston newspapers as soon as convenient." The account books show that on Jan. 8, 1840, a box was shipped to Dr. Parkman, containing one set full bound of the large work, *Birds of America*, at \$1075; also one set half bound at \$950, and the Biography complete at \$27.50. Dr. Parkman was also a subscriber to the octavo edition of 1840, as well as to the work on the Quadrupeds.

<sup>2</sup> William and Richard Rathbone, the warmest friends Audubon had in England and whose acquaintance he first made in 1826. The "Flycatcher," a drawing made by Audubon in 1826 and presented to Mrs. Rathbone of "Green Bank," Liverpool, England, also the pencil sketch of Audubon drawn by himself, are still in the family. These were illustrated in 'Audubon and his Journals' and Miss M. R. Audubon writes me that she saw them during a recent visit to Liverpool. The Rathbone's still possess the folio edition of the 'Birds of America' with Audubon's presentation autograph in each volume.

<sup>3</sup> Gideon B. Smith, M. D., born 1793, died 1867. M. D., University of Maryland, 1840. Editor Journal of the American Silk Association, 1839-40. A well known entomologist, authority on the seventeen year locust.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Gilmor, died Nov. 30, 1848. Extensively connected with mercantile affairs. First President of the Academy of Sciences of Baltimore, when incorporated in 1825. An original subscriber to the folio edition, 'Birds of America,' as well as the octavo edition of 1840.